SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the expert Committee's report on pension scheme for journalists and other employees of the newspapers and news agencies;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by what time a decision is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) The report of the Expert Committee has been considered by the Central Board of Trustees Employees Provident Fund. The Board has recommended to the Government a Pension Scheme for all Provident Fund subscribers including Journalists and other employees of the newspaper establishments. The recommendations of the Board which are presently under consideration of the Government envisage amendment in the EPF & (MP) Act, 1952, hence no specific time limit for the final decision can be indicated.

Setting up of an Inter-tate Coordination Cell for the migrant workers

499. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from some of the Chief Ministers to set up an Inter-State Coordination Cell to deal with the problems faced by the migrant labourers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conversion of provident fund into an elaborate pension scheme

500. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to convert the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) into an elaborate pension scheme from 1993-94 onwards:

(b) whether Government propose to launch a new Investment Plan by which this fund's capital could be put into mutual funds and real estate;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for changing of Provident Fund to pension scheme;

(d) whether Government's policy planners in the Labour Ministry have fully examined/considered all the recommendations made by the HOTA Committee and consulted Labour and Employees' Unions in the matter, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the above scheme would be beneficial to Government exchequer or employees as a whole?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the HOTA Committee have been considered by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund which is a tripartite body consisting of representatives from employers, employees and Government. The Board has recommended introduction of a suitable Pension Scheme for the members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme. The recommendations of the Board are presently under consideration of the Government. The scheme is intended to be beneficial to the employees.

Worker's Cooperations to Run Sick Public Sector Undertakings

501. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI J. P. JAVALI:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have worked out the model for worker's co-operations to run sick Public Sector Undertaknigs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the New Industrial jute Mills run by workers co-operative has made a profit of Rs 6 crores and is running well;

(c) whether Government are thinking in terms of having a labour co-operative sector as one of the way out arising from the failures of private and public sector; and

(d) whether the Department has worked out an agenda to help the labour who come forward to run sick units on co-operative lines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Since the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 have been extended to Government companies as defined in Section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956, it is mandatory on the part of the Board of Directors of a sick Government compasy to refer its case to the B.I.F.R. The B.I.F.R. may consider the request of workers to from a cooperative to run the company while preparing a package for its rehabilitation. The Government would encourage and support such an initiative.

The New Central Jute Mills which is run by a workers' cooperative earned a net profit of about Rs. 5 crores for the year 1991-92 though the accumulated losses continue to be heavy.

Impart of marine pollution on Indian Ocean

502. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal reefs and beaches in the Indian Ocean have been seriously affected by the marine pollution and a number of coral reefs have been declared endangered and several coral reefs have disappeared;

(b) if so, the details threof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued a notification to conserve coastal areas of the country which *inter alia* bans the use of corals for any purpose.

I.A.S. AND I.P.S: Officers of Assam Cadre Working in Delhi

503. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers of Assam Cadre working in the Central Government in Delhi on deputation basis; and

(b) what are their names and their period of service outside Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The number of IAS and IPS officers belonging to Assam—Maghalaya cadre working in the Central Government in Delhi on deputation is 28 and 10 respectively.

(b) The relevent information in respect of the IAS officers is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 5). The names of IPS officers on deputation to Central Goverlment in Delhi are given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 6). Information about the period spent by the IPS officers outside Assam is not readily available. The same would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.